(a) whether the persons responsible for burning 45 passengers to death in Kakatiya Express near Hyderabad last year have been identified; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) and (b). The registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crime on the railways is the responsibility of the Government Railway Police which functions under the control of the State Governments/ Union Territory administrations. Action to register, investigate and detect the crime under reference is to be taken by the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

[Translation]

Subsidy on Pesticides

5073. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to continue the subsidy on pesticides;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to allow free distribution of pesticides among the farmers to check the pest attack on pulses and oil seeds crops; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b). the Government is currently giving subsidy to farmers on pesticides under the following programmes viz.:

(i) Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the Control of Pests and Diseases of Agricultural Importance;

(ii) Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Oilseeds Production Programme;

(iii) Centrally Sponsored Scheme on National Pulses Development Programme;

(iv) Special Foodgrain Production Programme (Pulses);

(v) Integrated Programme for Rice Development;

(vi) Special Foodgrain Production Programme (Maize & Millets);

(vii) Intensive Cotton Development Programme; and

(viii) Special Jute Development Programme.

Subsidy on Plant Protection under above programmes is given @ 50% of the cost of chemicals subject to certain ceiling limits.

Government propose to continue these programmes for the time being.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) In view of reply to part (c), question does not arise.

[English]

Visit of Sail Team to Middle East Countries

5074. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU: